

*Liaison Links is the quarterly
newsletter of the Seattle City
Attorney's Precinct Liaison Program*

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Liaison Links

Important Changes Coming to Precinct Liaison Program

By Bob Hood and Phil Brenneman

This fall will see big changes coming to the Precinct Liaison Program. With our new federal community prosecution grant, Ed Mc Kenna has taken up the fulltime precinct liaison role for the North & East Precinct. Kirk Davis, the former liaison will continue to support the program through his work with the Civil Enforcement Section of the City Attorney's Office. Tuere Sala, an experienced prosecutor from the Criminal Division, will take over as the new full time liaison in the South Precinct. Longtime liaison Trish Nellermoe is returning to school to seek a Master's Degree in Horticulture. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to Kirk and Trish for all of their hard work and contributions to the program.

Articles concerning these and other exciting changes and ongoing community problem solving projects are also reported on in this issue. One thing, however, will not change: our commitment to improving public safety and community livability through effective problem solving.

Community Scores Victory Over International District Drug Paraphernalia Seller

By Shelley Hickey and Phil Brenneman

In 2000, the West Precinct Liaison Attorney filed a criminal complaint against the owner of the TQ Smokeshop, Mr. Nguyen, in the International District charging him with selling drug paraphernalia in violation of state statute. The police had previously warned Mr. Nguyen several times that the sale of glass pipes containing decorative roses known as a "pipe" or "rose" on the street, were used by people to smoke crack cocaine and violated the drug paraphernalia laws. This enforcement effort by the police to curtail such illegal sales was spurred on in good part by community complaints from several Seattle neighborhoods.

Mr. Nguyen pled guilty to the charge and received a two-year probation period. The charge against Mr. Nguyen would have been reduced to an infraction at the end of two years had he refrained from further sales of drug paraphernalia. In late 2001, however, police received community complaints that Mr. Nguyen was again selling paraphernalia but this time in the form of a heat-resistant glass-like

“Angelic Crystal” writing pen used to smoke crack cocaine. Again, the police warned Mr. Nguyen to stop selling these items in violation of the law. In December 2001, an undercover police officer bought just such a pen from Mr. Nguyen despite previous warnings.

The West Precinct Liaison Attorney charged Mr. Nguyen in Seattle Municipal Court with a new charge of selling drug paraphernalia and a probation violation stemming from the 2000 charge. Mr. Nguyen pled guilty to a misdemeanor for the December 2001 sale of drug paraphernalia. The City agreed not to prosecute the probation violation. The court, however, was initially unconvinced that a sale of a “writing pen” could violate the drug paraphernalia statute. As a result, the West Precinct Liaison Attorney teamed up with the North Precinct Liaison Attorney on a brief and oral argument which convinced Judge Bonner that the “Angelic Crystal” pen posed a very real problem on the streets of Seattle.

The community played a huge part in conveying to the judge the negative impacts associated with sales of drug paraphernalia such as the “Angelic Crystal” pen. Members of the International District and Pioneer Square communities attended the hearings and took the opportunity to let Judge Bonner know how such items affect daily life in their neighborhoods. After reviewing written arguments submitted by the City and the defendant and hearing from the community, Judge Bonner

agreed that selling the “Angelic Crystal” pen was a violation of the drug paraphernalia statute.

Judge Bonner ordered Mr. Nguyen to pay a \$250.00 fine and perform 50 hours of community service for the Community Action Partnership in the International District. In addition, Mr. Nguyen is subject to two additional years of probation as a result of the new charge. This case is a great example of an effective collaborative effort between the Seattle Police Department, attorneys from the Precinct Liaison Program and the community. Each played a pivotal role in addressing a serious drug-related problem in the community. This case brings positive results not only for the International District community, but also for other Seattle communities who benefit from the example and standard set through this case

Kirk Davis Bids Farewell as the North Precinct Liaison

By Kirk Davis

I took over the job as the precinct liaison to the North Precinct from Margaret Sowards in the summer of 1999. Since 1999, the Precinct Liaison Program has evolved from a part-time position in which an assistant city attorney attended the monthly meetings and reported back to the City Attorney on community concerns for future action to a full time and much more active position. Nevertheless, in my part-time role, I was able to work successfully in partnership with the police, other government

agencies, and the community to help solve community problems. For example, I prosecuted managers and owners of motels on Aurora Avenue for permitting prostitution, and changed the practices of some of those managers and owners. One motel had long plagued the neighborhood with drugs and prostitution. However, after prosecuting one of the managers for permitting prostitution and meeting with the owners to discuss improvements to their business, the owners decided to close the motel and have plans to build an office or apartment building at the site.

We also had some success in the Ballard area controlling a house that was notorious for being the site of underage drinking and drugs. After the police obtained a narcotics search warrant, I was able to successfully prosecute one of the residents for drug possession. Because this resulted in the removal of persons from the residence, the problems for the neighbors around this residence were greatly reduced.

There is, of course, plenty of work left to be done to help assist the community in making North Seattle a safer and more livable place. But, those challenges will be for the new North Precinct Liaison, Ed McKenna. Ed is a very experienced and creative prosecutor. I am sure that he will enjoy working with the members of the North Precinct as much as I have. Thank all of you for your support. I wish you all the best.

North and East Precinct Liaison “settles-in”

By Ed McKenna

As I settle into my new position as the Precinct Liaison Attorney for the North and East precincts, I am rapidly learning the issues of concern to the community and the Seattle Police Department. While any new job can be a bit overwhelming, I have received tremendous support. Both police captains and their staff have made me feel welcome and have committed to assisting me in any way possible. Those community members I have met so far have been supportive and patient. I credit Trish Neller-moe and Kirk Davis for paving the way for me with their excellent contacts and good community relations.

So far, I’m finding the work to be a tremendous challenge. Working on liquor issues, business issues, drug issues, and others, makes for a busy day. I have to say however, that I am very excited and fortunate to have a position where I can assist in improving the livability of our community. I am committed to providing the best public service and to making lasting positive changes. Because I have two different offices, I have a separate phone number for each. At the North Precinct, I can be reached Tuesdays and Thursdays at 684-7765 and at the East Precinct, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 684-4375. Please feel free to contact me about your community problem-solving issues.

I will be attending a number of community meetings and I encourage you to “bend my ear”. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

South Precinct Liaison Bids Farewell to the Program

By Trish Neller-moe

After a nearly eight year association with the Precinct Liaison Program, because I have decided to return to school to seek a Master’s Degree from the University of Washington in Horticulture, I am leaving my liaison attorney position. While in school, I will continue to work part time in the City Attorney’s Office Criminal Division.

In 1995, when our office began the Precinct Liaison Program, I was the first liaison for the South Precinct, and have remained there ever since. Being a liaison was a great position for me. I loved working with the community and the police to help make positive changes in several Seattle neighborhoods. It was my pleasure to serve as the full time liaison attorney for the East and South Precincts over the last two years. A liaison attorney can only be successful when working with the cooperation of the community and the police. So, I wish to thank all of the many community members, police officers, supervisors and commanders, and other city department employees who have been essential to the success of my projects. It has been a joy to work with you and I wish you the best.

Meet Our New South Precinct Liaison Attorney

By Phil Brenneman

We are pleased to announce that City Attorney Tom Carr has selected Tuere Sala as the new full time precinct liaison attorney for the South Precinct. Tuere will take over that role starting in October. Tuere is a native of Seattle and attended Franklin High School. After high school, Tuere enlisted and served in the Air Force for three years. Majoring in Philosophy, she received her undergraduate degree from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee. She received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas and is licensed to practice in Kansas, Missouri and Washington.

Of the twelve years Tuere has practiced law, ten have been as a prosecutor. Her prosecutorial experience includes felony and



South Precinct Liaison Tuere Sala

misdemeanor trials, drug court, civil asset forfeiture, and five years as a community prosecutor with the City of Kansas City, Missouri Prosecutor’s Office and the

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office in Kansas City. She joined the Criminal Division of the Seattle City Attorney's Office in January 2001.

Tuere's hobbies include reading, singing in her church choir and meditating. Tuere has two boys, ages 17 and 21.

You can reach Tuere at the South Precinct at 233-2020.

3rd Community Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey Yields Impressive Results

By Bob Hood

Results of the third Community Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey are in and they continue to reflect a highly favorable opinion of the Precinct Liaison Program. The survey is conducted twice per year and helps us to gauge the success of our program. Of those responding to the latest survey, about 48% were affiliated with community groups, 22% with business groups, 9% were employed with the city, and 21% were interested citizens. Here are some of the significant results:

[% up or down compared to last survey in parenthesis]

- **89%** (-2%) of the respondents were able to properly identify their precinct liaison by name.
- **89%** (+3%) agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the goals and purposes of the

program, 4% disagreed or strongly disagreed, 7% had no opinion.

- **89%** (+5%) agreed or strongly agreed that their liaison's work contributed to improved public safety and community livability within their precinct, 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 9% had no opinion.
- **87%** (even) agreed or strongly agreed that their liaison helped to improve communication concerning public safety and community livability issues, 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 11% had no opinion.
- **87%** (+3%) agreed or strongly agreed that their liaison improved the way that public safety and community livability issues were identified and resolved, 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 11% had no opinion.
- **82%** (+11%) agreed or strongly agreed that their liaison reduced the time it took to identify and resolve specific public safety & community livability issues, 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 17% had no opinion.
- **67%** (-20%) agreed or strongly agreed that Liaison Links provided useful information concerning the program and its projects, 7% disagreed or strongly disagreed, 26% had no opinion.

Particularly striking about the latest survey was the relative absence of negative responses and further increases in those that agreed or strongly agreed with the survey questions. The only significant decline occurred concerning the drop in those who thought Liaison Links provided useful information about program projects. Most of that decline resulted from an increase in the number of people having no opinion. We will attempt to whet that interest with new articles in the coming months!

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete our survey. We appreciate your feedback and hope to maintain these impressive results. The next survey will be conducted in late October.

Collaborative Effort Takes on Capitol Hill Problem Park

By Trish Nellermeoe

A joint effort by area neighbors, CPT officers from the East Precinct, and the East Precinct liaison has started to bring problems at Capitol Hill's Bobby Morris Park under control. Neighbors had complained that individuals who appeared to be living in cars near Bobby Morris Park used the park for illegal behavior including drug use, drinking in the park, and urinating in public. A local neighborhood group, Groundswell Off Broadway, asked the City to restrict parking near the park to a three-hour maximum during the day to stem the growing problem. Problems

associated with the park were also spilling over into the Jack In the Box restaurant located at the northwest corner of the park. Problems there included: heroin use in the restaurant, aggressive panhandling, fights, intimidation of employees, and underage drinking in public.

Responding to these concerns, the requested change in parking was accomplished. This has resulted in greatly reducing vehicle camping in the area. In addition, the parking restrictions created more parking for shoppers on Broadway and improved residential parking for the surrounding neighborhood.

To address the illegal behavior in the park, the East Precinct Liaison Attorney and CPT Officer Joe Osborne trained officers from all three patrol watches regarding use of the Park Exclusion Ordinance. The ordinance allows officers to exclude people from the park when they engage in illegal behaviors. Offenders are admonished to stay out of the park for varying periods of time based on the seriousness of the offense and the history of their past violations. Violators who subsequently return to the park during their period of exclusion can be prosecuted for criminal trespass. An enforcement emphasis was used successfully to address illegal behaviors in the area.

The East Precinct Liaison Attorney and Officer Osborne also met with representatives from the Jack in the Box and suggested numerous

changes to the restaurant and their operations to address the problems. Jack in the Box followed all of the recommendations and, in addition, began to close their dining room at 10 p.m. on their own volition. All of these measures resulted in a significant reduction in illegal behavior at the premises.

As a result of these related efforts, problems surrounding the Bobby Morris Park and the Jack in the Box restaurant are under better control. This is yet another great example of how an effective collaboration between the community, the Community Police Team, and the Precinct Liaison Program can make a difference in Seattle. Our thanks to all whom helped to make this project a success.

North Precinct Efforts to Control Noise Disturbances

By Phil Brenneman

The North Precinct's use of a new admonishment form when responding to noise complaints in the University District has been showing great promise. The admonishment form is part of a protocol developed by officers of the North Precinct officers and attorneys from the Precinct Liaison Program that is designed to end disturbance noises and lead to successful prosecutions of noise violations.

When responding to a noise complaint, an officer issues a written admonishment to the person or persons causing the

noise. The written admonishment puts them on notice that if SPD is recalled to the property because of a subsequent noise complaint, they are subject to arrest for violation of the noise control ordinance. North Precinct officers indicate that use of the admonishment form has resulted in a significant improvement in enforcement of the noise control ordinance in the University District.

Welcome to Captain Tom Byers

By Phil Brenneman

Tom Byers, the new Captain of the South Precinct knows the turf and issues of his precinct. Tom is a life long resident of the south-end of Seattle. He attended local south Seattle schools and graduated from Cleveland High School. Captain Byers graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business & Public Administration.

Captain Byers began his career with SPD in October 1972 and will soon be a 30-year veteran of the department. This is his fourth tour of duty at the South Precinct, where he has now worked at all four ranks: Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant and now Captain.

As a Police Officer, he worked in the South Precinct for 8 years, in the East Precinct for 18 months and in the Traffic Enforcement Unit for 4 years.

Tom was a Detective with the Accident Investigations Squad February 1985 to March 1988.

He returned to South Precinct in March 1988 as an Acting Sergeant and was promoted to Sergeant in August 1988. He remained at the South Precinct until January 1990 when he was assigned to the West Precinct as a Bicycle Squad and Community Police Team (CPT) Sergeant. In March 1991, Tom was assigned as a Detective Sergeant in the Central Juvenile Investigations Squad. He served as the Canine Unit Sergeant from December 1993 to August 1994.

In August 1994, he returned to the South Precinct as the Acting Lieutenant for Third Watch and was promoted to Lieutenant in

November 1994 in that role. In this assignment, he commanded CPT and worked closely with the community and other agencies, including the City Attorney's office, to solve crime and quality of life issues.

Tom was assigned as the South Precinct Operations Lieutenant in April 1995. With his promotion to Captain in March of 2000, he served as the commander of the Ethics, Inspections & Grants Section.

In April 2002, Tom became the Commander of the South Precinct. Tom brings his life long experience to this very busy and diverse precinct with

its variety of challenges. Captain Byers says he looks forward to working closely with community and agency partners once again.

On a personal note, Tom is also a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and is an instructor at Lees Martial Arts Academy in West Seattle. He enjoys working out at the gym and traveling. In September he married Trish Nellermoe, the former South/East Precinct Liaison Attorney. Our congratulations to Tom on his assignment as Precinct Captain and our best wishes to both Tom and Trish on their marriage.

If you have comments or questions about *Liaison Links*, suggestions for issues we could cover, or other feedback, please call either Bob Hood at 684-7771 or Phil Brenneman at 684-8224. To get additional hardcopies of *Liaison Links*, or to change or add names to either our mailing or e-mailing list, please call Cami Bayer at 684-8864.